

Remarks:

1. This amendment has been made to cancel Claims 1~8 which are supported by Figs. 1~7 as originally filed.
2. Claim 10 has been canceled in this amendment. However, the subject matters in original Claim 10 are now incorporated into the amended Claim 9 by substantially combining originally filed Claims 9 and 10.
3. Claim 11 is too obvious and therefore canceled in this amendment.
4. After this amendment, the amended Claim 9 discloses an umbrella grip having an elastic string made of stretchable elastic materials to be resiliently tightly fastened on the groove of the umbrella grip, which is novel to thereby avoid the prior arts of U.S. 4,632,137 to Exley et al. and U.S. 4,624,276 to James H. Allen.
5. Allen's prior art (, 276) disclosed a flexible carrying strap (in Claim 1, Line 6 and many other occurrences), which is not an elastic string as taught by this application.

Please review the Attachments A and B, the word "flexible" means that it is able to be bent easily without breaking and the word "flexibility", a noun of "flexible", indicates an ability to bend without breaking or adaptability.

No meaning of "flexible" being equal to "elastic" can be found.

So, the elastic string as disclosed by this application to be used on an umbrella grip is novel and not anticipated by the Allen's prior art.

6. Now please further review prior art to Exley et al (, 137), especially reviewing Claim 1 (column 3, Lines 46~47), "means for pivotally securing the ring to the handle comprising a pair of oppositely facing wells" (18a, 18b in Fig. 8), the ring (24) of the Exley's prior art is not an elastic ring so that it must require a pair of pivot-like "bent-in free ends 24c, 24d" to be pivotally engaged in the pair of wells (18a, 18b).

For stably and safely pivotally securing the two free ends (24c, 24d) in the two wells (18a, 18b) of the prior art, the two wells (18a, 18b) can not be made to be too close with each other. Therefore, it may have the following remarkable drawbacks:

A. The loop diameter of the ring (24) can not be made as large as possible as limited by the above-mentioned "pivoting mechanism" (two free ends 24c, 24d with two wells 18a, 18b). So, the loop of the ring (24) of the Exley's prior art may thus be small to thereby influence its comfortable carrying when held by a user's hand or fingers. Comparatively, this application discloses the two string holes 12, 12 approximating each other (Fig. 8 and the prototype of Attachment C as enclosed herewith) on the groove 11, which indicates that the loop diameter can be larger for a convenient holding or carrying by a user's hand or fingers to be superior to that of the Exley's prior art.

B. The ring (24) is obviously not an elastic ring (because the "pivoting mechanism" requires a rigid structure and material) and can not be resiliently fastened on the groove as recessed in

the grip. Even the loop of the ring of the prior art may be made of elastic material to have its resilience or elasticity undoubtedly. However, the two free ends 24c, 24d should be rigid for providing the "pivoting mechanism" so that the free ends 24c, 24d of the prior art are not made of elastic materials as taught by this application. Nevertheless, the text and claims of Exley's prior art did not disclose the ring portion (other than the two free ends) made of elastic materials as taught by this application. So, the Exley's ring (24) may not be resiliently fastened so well on the umbrella grip as tightly as effected by this application.

Accordingly, this application is unobvious and much improved over the prior art to Exley et al.

7. The Examiner is cordially requested to "play" the prototype of this application as enclosed Attach. C, of which the height is cut out for convenient mailing along with this Response paper. The Examiner may think about its actual height/length of a true umbrella grip. From the prototype, it can be easily operated to fasten the elastic string on the groove as recessed in the grip when not in use. When it is used for carrying or hanging purpose, the ring can be easily removed from the groove. By the way, the patentable weight of this application may now be clearly observed.
8. Accordingly, this application is now thought to be placed on a condition of allowance. An early Notice to this effect is respectfully expected. It is also necessary to stress that no New

Matter is inserted in this amendment. Reviewing the last few lines of amended Claim 9 of this application, the wording "whereby when the use of the string is not desired." is not a New Matter since it is early supported in original Claim 1, Lines 7~8 (a handwritten amendment draft Attach. D is enclosed for checking). Besides, the 112 rejection/objection is also overcome after this amendment. If the Examiner thinks that few words are still informal, the Examiner's voluntary amendment therefor will be highly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted;

By: Tzun-Zong Wu

Tzun-Zong Wu

Date: Sept. 21, 2004

A. Hachman (A)

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~vb. 4. (tr.) to impart a flavour or quality to. [C14: < OF *flavour*, < LL *flavor* (unattested) bad smell, breath, < L *flavor* (to blow) — 'flavourless' or U.S. 'flavorless' adj. — 'flavourful' or U.S. 'flavorful' adj.]

flavouring or **U.S. flavoring** ('flavərm) *n.* a substance used to impart a particular flavour to food: *rum flavouring*.

flaw ('flaʊ) *n.* 1. an imperfection or blemish. 2. a crack or rift. 3. Law an invalidating defect in a document or proceeding. ~vb. 4. to make or become blemished or imperfect. [C14: prob. < ON *flaga* (stone slab) — 'flawless' adj.]

flaw' (flaʊ) *n.* a sudden short gust of wind; squall. [C16: of Scand. origin]

flax ('flæks) *n.* 1. a herbaceous plant or shrub that has blue flowers and is cultivated for its seeds (flaxseed) and for the fibres of its stems. 2. the fibre of this plant, made into thread and woven into linen fabrics. 3. any of various similar plants. 4. N.Z. a swamp plant producing a fibre that is used by Maoris for decorative work, baskets, etc. [OE *flæx*]

flaxen ('flæksən) *adj.* 1. of or resembling flax. 2. of a soft yellow colour: *flaxen hair*.

flaxseed ('flæks,si:d) *n.* the seed of the flax plant, which yields linseed oil. Also called: *linseed*.

flay ('fleɪ) *vb.* (tr.) 1. to strip off the skin or outer covering of, esp. by whipping. 2. to attack with savage criticism. [OE *flæan*] — **flayer** *n.*

flea ('fleɪ) *n.* 1. a small wingless parasitic blood-sucking jumping insect living on the skin of mammals and birds. 2. flea in one's ear. *Inf.* a sharp rebuke. [OE *fleah*]

fleabane ('flei,bæn) *n.* any of several plants, including one having purplish tubular flower heads with orange centres and one having yellow daisy-like flower heads, that are reputed to ward off fleas.

flea-bite ('flei,bait) *n.* 1. the bite of a flea. 2. a slight or trifling annoyance or discomfort.

flea-bitten *adj.* 1. bitten by or infested with fleas. 2. Inf. shabby or decrepit.

flea market *n.* an open-air market selling cheap and often second-hand goods.

flea-pit ('flei,pit) *n.* Inf. a shabby cinema or theatre.

flavour ('flaʊ,wɜː) *n.* 1. any of various plants with yellow daisy-like flowers and rosettes of downy leaves. 2. a Eurasian plantain whose seeds were formerly used as a flea repellent.

fleche ('fleʃ) *n.* Also called: *spirelet*. a slender spire, esp. over the intersection of the nave and transept ridges of a church roof. [C18: < F. *spire* (lit. arrow), prob. of Gmc origin]

fleck ('flek) *n.* 1. a small marking or streak. 2. a speck. 3. a flock of dust. ~vb. 3. (tr.) Also: *flecter*. to speckle. [C16: prob. < ON *flekk* (stain, spot)]

fled ('fled) *vb.* the past tense or past participle of *fly*.

feeding ('fi:diŋ) *n.* 1. (tr.) to feed and care for (a young bird) until it is able to fly. 2. (tr.) Also called: *flech*. to feed (something, esp. an arrow) with a feather or feathers. 3. (tr.) to cover or adorn with or as if with feathers. [OE *fleogan*, as in *unfledge* (unfed), see *FLY*]

fledgling or **fledgling** ('fledʒlɪŋ) *n.* 1. a young bird that has grown feathers. 2. a young person who has grown feathers. 3. (tr.) to run away from (a place, danger, etc.). 2. (intr.) to run or move quickly. [OE *fleogan*] — **fleeper** *n.*

fleece ('fli:s) *n.* 1. the coat of wool that covers the body of a sheep or similar animal. 2. the wool removed from a single sheep. 3. something resembling a fleece. 4. Sheepskin or a fabric with soft pile, used as a lining for coats, etc. ~vb. (tr.) 5. to delouse or charge exorbitantly. 6. another term for shear (sense 1). [OE *fleoſ*]

fleece ('fli:s) *n.* N.Z. a person who collects fleeces after shearing and prepares them for baling. Also called: *fleece-oh*.

fleecey ('fli:s) *adj.* fleecier, fleeciest. or

resembling fleecy. — 'fleecily' *adv.*

fleece ('fli:s) *n.* 1. a soft, sheer, ~vb. 2. a derogatory glance. [C14: of Scand. origin, < Norwegian *flere* to snigger]

fleet ('fli:t) *n.* 1. a number of warships organized as a tactical unit. 2. all the warships of a nation. 3. a number of aircraft, ships, buses, etc. operating together or under the same ownership. [OE *fleot*]

fleet ('fli:t) *adj.* 1. rapid in movement; swift. 2. poetic: fleet. ~vb. 3. (tr.) to move rapidly. 4. (tr.) Obs. to cause (time) to pass rapidly. [prob. OE *fleotan* to float, glide rapidly] — 'fleetly' *adv.* — 'fleetness' *n.*

fleet ('fli:t) *n.* Chiefly southeastern Brit. a small coastal inlet, creek. [OE *fleot* flowing water]

Fleet ('fli:t) *n.* the 1. a stream that formerly ran into the Thames between Ludgate Hill and Fleet Street. 2. Also called: *Fleet Prison*. (formerly) a London prison, esp. used for holding debtors.

Fleet Air Arm *n.* (formerly) the aviation branch of the Royal Navy.

fleet chief petty officer *n.* a non-commissioned officer in the Royal Navy comparable in rank to a warrant officer in the army or the Royal Air Force.

fleeting ('fli:tɪŋ) *adj.* rapid and transient: *a fleeting glimpse of the sea* — 'fleetingly' *adv.*

Fleet Street *n.* 1. a street in central London in which many newspaper offices are situated. 2. British journalism or journalists collectively.

Fleming ('flemɪŋ) *n.* a native or inhabitant of Flanders, a medieval principality in the Low Countries, or of Flemish-speaking Belgium.

Flemish ('flemɪʃ) *n.* 1. one of the two official languages of Belgium. 2. the (functioning as pl) the Flemings collectively. ~adj. 3. of or characteristic of Flanders, the Flemings, or their language.

fleshy ('fleshi) *adj.* 1. fleshy or fleshy (flesh) *n.* 1. the soft part of the body of an animal or human, esp. muscular tissue, as distinct from bone and viscera. 2. Inf. excess weight; fat. 3. Arch. the edible tissue of animals as opposed to that of fish or, sometimes, fowl. 4. the thick soft part of a fruit or vegetable. 5. the human body and its physical or sensual nature as opposed to the soul or spirit. Related adj.: *carnal*. 6. manking in general. 7. intimate creatures in general. 8. one's own family: kin (esp. in one's own flesh and blood). 9. a yellowish-pink colour. 10. in the flesh, in person; actually present. ~vb. 11. (tr.) Hunting to stimulate the hunting instinct of (hounds or falcons) by giving them small quantities of raw flesh. 12. Arch. or poetic to accustom or incite to bloodshed or battle by initial experience. 13. to latten; fill out. [OE *flesc*]

fleshy ('fleshi) *n.* Scot. a butcher

fleshings ('fleshɪŋz) *pl. n.* flesh-coloured tights.

fleshy ('fleshi) *adj.* -fleshy, -flesht. 1. relating to the body; carnal. *fleshy desire*. 2. worldly as opposed to spiritual. 3. fat. — 'fleshiness' *n.*

fleshpots ('fleshpɒts) *pl. n.* Often facetious. 1. luxurious living. 2. places where bodily desires are gratified. [C16: < the Biblical use as applied to Egypt (Exodus 16:3)]

flesh wound (*wʌnd*) *n.* a wound affecting superficial tissues.

fleshy ('fleshi) *adj.* fleshier, fleshest. 1. plump. 2. related to or resembling flesh. 3. Bot. of some fruits, etc. thick and pulpy. — 'fleshiness' *n.*

fletcher ('fletʃ) *n.* a person who makes arrows. [C14: < OF *fletcher*, < *fleche* arrow; see *FLECH*]

fleur-de-lis or **fleur-de-lis** ('fledʒə'li:z) *n.* pl. *fleurs-de-lis* or *fleurs-de-lis* ('fledʒə'li:z). 1. Heraldry, a charge representing a lily with three distinct petals. 2. another name for lris (sense 2). [C19: < OF *flor de lis*, lily flower]

fleur-de-lis or **fleur-de-lis** ('fledʒə'li:z) *n.* an ornament

or motif resembling a flower. [C19: F. lit.: a small flower. < *fleur* flower]

flew ('flu) *vb.* the past tense of *fly*.

flew ('flu) *pl. n.* the flesh hanging upper lip of bloodhound or similar dog. [C16: < ?]

flex ('fleks) *n.* 1. Brit. a flexible insulated electric cable, used esp. to connect appliances to mains. 2. U.S. name: cord. 3. to contract (a muscle) or (of a muscle) to contract. [C16: < L *flexus* bent, winding. < *flectere* to bend, bow]

flexible ('fleksəbəl) *adj.* 1. Also *flexile* ('fleksəl) able to be bent easily without breaking. 2. adaptable or variable: *flexible working hours*. 3. able to be persuaded easily.

flexion ('fleksən) *n.* 1. the act of flexing or bending a joint or limb. 2. the condition of the joint or limb so bent. — 'flexional' *adj.*

flexitime ('fleksɪtɪm) *n.* a system permitting flexibility of working hours at the beginning or end of each day, provided an agreed number of hours (core time) are spent at work. Also called: *flextime*.

flexography ('fleksəgrəfi) *n.* a method of many letterpress printing using a resilient plate and solvent-based ink, used for printing on metal foil or plastic.

flexor ('fleks) *n.* any muscle whose contraction serves to bend a joint or limb. Cf. *extensor*. [C7: NL; see *FLEX*]

flexuous ('fleksjuəs) *adj.* full of bends or curves; winding. [C17: < L *flexuosus* full of bends, winding. < *flexus* a bending; see *FLEX*] — 'flexuously' *adv.*

flexure ('fleks) *n.* 1. the act of flexing or the state of being flexed. 2. a bend, turn, or fold. 3. a responsible, silly, or gossipy person. [C15: < ?] *flexibly* *adv.*

flick ('flik) *vb.* 1. (tr.) to touch with or as if with the finger or hand in a quick jerky movement. 2. (tr.) to propel or remove by a quick jerky movement, usually of the fingers or hand. 3. to move or cause to move quickly or jerkily. 4. (intr., foll. by *through*) to read or look at (a book, etc.) quickly or idly. ~n. 5. a tap or quick stroke with the fingers, a whip, etc. 6. the sound made by such a stroke. 7. a flick or particle. [C15: *flick* ('flik) *n.* SI. 1. a cinema film. 2. (pl.) the cinema, what's on at the flicks tonight?]

flicker ('flikə) *vb.* 1. (intr.) to shine with an unsteady or intermittent light. 2. (intr.) to move quickly to and fro. 3. (tr.) to cause to flicker. 4. (tr.) to cause to flicker or light or flame. 5. a swift quivering or fluttering movement. [OE *fliccan*]

flicker ('flikə) *n.* 1. a North American woodpecker which has a yellow undersurface to the wings and tail. [C19: perhaps imit. of the bird's call]

flick knife *n.* a knife with a retractable blade that springs out when a button is pressed.

flier or **flyer** ('fliə) *n.* 1. a person or thing that flies or moves very fast. 2. an aviator or pilot. 3. Inf. a long flying leap. 4. a rectangular step in a straight flight of stairs. Cf. *winder* (sense 5).

flight ('flaɪt) *n.* 1. the act, skill, or manner of flying. 2. a journey made by a flying animal or object. 3. a group of flying birds or aircraft; a flight of swallows. 4. the basic tactical unit of a military air force. 5. a journey through space, esp. of a spacecraft. 6. an aircraft flying on a scheduled journey. 7. a soaring mental journey above or beyond the normal everyday world: a flight of fancy. 8. a single line of hurdles across a track in a race. 9. a feather or plastic attachment fitted to an arrow or dart to give it stability in flight. 10. a set of steps or stairs between one landing or floor and the next. ~vb. 11. (tr.) to cause (a ball, dart, etc.) to float slowly towards its target. 12. (tr.) to shoot (a bird) in flight. 13. (tr.) to frolic (an arrow or dart). [OE *flyht*]

flight ('flaɪt) *n.* 1. the act of fleeing or running

away, as from danger. 2. put to flight, to cause to run away. 3. take (to) flight, to run away, flee. [OE *flyht* (unattested)]

flight deck *n.* 1. the crew compartment in an airliner. 2. the upper deck of an aircraft carrier from which aircraft take off.

flightless ('flaɪtləs) *adj.* (of certain birds and insects) unable to fly. See also *cattle*.

flight lieutenant *n.* an officer holding a commissioned rank senior to a flying officer and junior to a squadron leader in the Royal Air Force.

flight path *n.* the course through the air of an aircraft, rocket, or projectile.

flight recorder *n.* an electronic device fitted to an aircraft for collecting and storing information concerning its performance in flight. It is often used to determine the cause of a crash. Also called: *black box*.

flight sergeant *n.* a noncommissioned officer in the Royal Air Force, junior in rank to that of a master aircrew.

flight simulator *n.* a ground-training device that reproduces exactly the conditions experienced on the flight deck of an aircraft.

flighty ('flaɪti) *adj.* flightier, flightiest. 1. frivolous and irresponsible. 2. mentally erratic or wandering. — 'flightiness' *n.*

flimflam ('flɪm,flæm) *inf.* ~n. 1. a nonsense; rubbish; foolishness. b. (as modifier). *flimflam argument*. 2. a deception; trick, swindle. ~vb. 3. to deceive; cheat. [C16: prob. of Scand. origin] — 'flimflammer' *n.*

flimsy ('flɪmzi) *adj.* -sleer, -sleest. 1. not strong or substantial: a flimsy building. 2. light and thin: a flimsy dress. 3. unconvincing; weak: a flimsy excuse. ~n. 4. thin paper used for making carbon copies of a letter, etc. 5. a copy made on such paper. [C17: < ?] — 'flimsiness' *n.*

flinch ('flɪnʃ) *vb.* (intr.) 1. to draw back suddenly, as from pain, shock, etc.; wince. 2. (often foll. by *from*) to avoid contact (with): *he never flinched from his duty*. [C16: < OF *flechir*, rel. to *MHG flenken* to bend, direct] — 'flinchingly' *adv.*

flinders ('flɪndəz) *pl. n.* Rare. small fragments or splinters (esp. in fly into flinders). [C15: prob. of Scand. origin; cf. Norwegian *flindra* thin piece of stone]

fling ('flɪŋ) *vb.* flinging, flung. (mainly tr.) 1. to throw, esp. with force or abandon. 2. to put or send without warning or preparation: *to fling someone into jail*. 3. (also intr.) to move (oneself or a part of the body) with abandon or speed. 4. (usually foll. by *into*) to apply (oneself) diligently and with vigour (to). 5. to cast aside: *she flung away her scruples*. ~n. 6. the act or an instance of flinging. 7. a period or occasion of unrestrained or extravagant behaviour. 8. any of various vigorous Scottish reels full of leaps and turns, such as the Highland fling. 9. a trial; try: *have a fling at something different*. [C13: of Scand. origin] — **flinger** *n.*

flint ('flɪnt) *n.* 1. an impure greyish-black form of quartz that occurs in chalk. It produces sparks when struck with steel and is used in the manufacture of pottery and road-construction materials. Formula: *SiO₂*. 2. any piece of flint, esp. one used as a primitive tool or for striking fire. 3. a small cylindrical piece of an iron alloy, used in cigarette lighters. 4. Also called: *flint glass*, colourless glass other than plate glass. [OE]

flintlock ('flɪnt,lɒk) *n.* 1. an obsolete gunlock in which the charge is ignited by a spark produced by a flint in the hammer. 2. a firearm having such a lock.

flinty ('flɪnti) *adj.* flintier, flintiest. 1. of or resembling flint. 2. hard or cruel; unyielding. — 'flintiness' *n.*

flip ('flɪp) *vb.* flipping, flipped. 1. to throw (something light or small) carelessly or briskly. 2. to throw or flick (an object such as a coin) so that it turns or spins in the air. 3. to flick: *to flip a*

Atch. (B)

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Attachment (B)

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Attach. D

~~from the first groove to the second groove.~~

8. An umbrella grip according to Claim 7, wherein said second groove, juxtapositioned to the first groove for continuously engaging the string following a string portion as engaged in the first groove, is communicated with a second string hole which is formed in the second groove diametrically opposite to the first string hole located in the first groove for inserting a second end portion of the string through the second string hole to be retained within the grip; said two string holes defining a line linked therebetween to be intersected with a longitudinal axis defined at the center of the grip.

9. ^(Currently amended) ~~An umbrella grip according to Claim 1, wherein said grip is~~ ^{comprising: a}
^{an} coaxially formed with a central shaft of ~~the umbrella includes a~~
groove circumferentially recessed in an outer surface of an extension wall protruding from an end plate of the grip; and two string holes approximating with each other and juxtapositionally formed in the groove through the extension wall for inserting two end portions of ^{an} ~~the~~ elastic string through the two string holes to be retained against an inside surface of the extension wall.

10. ^(canceled) ~~An umbrella grip according to Claim 9, wherein~~ ^{is} said elastic string ~~is~~ made of stretchable elastic materials having two opposite end portions of said string secured to the grip through the two string holes which are formed in the grip and communicated with the groove; and having a loop portion

^{use}
protruding outwardly from the grip for carrying, with the loop
portion having a perimeter smaller than a perimeter of the groove
so that the loop portion of the string will be resiliently tightly
fastened on the groove of the grip without being easily loosened.

11. ~~An umbrella grip according to Claim 9, wherein said extension~~
~~(canceled)~~
~~wall is formed as a shape selected from the group consisting of~~
~~cylindrical shape, spherical shape, rectangular shape and~~
~~polygonal shape.~~

Whereby when the use of the string is not desired,

Remarks:

1. This amendment has been made to cancel claims 1-8 which are supported by Figs. 1-7 as originally filed.
2. Claim 10 has been ^{canceled} in this amendment. However, the subject matters in original claim 10 are now incorporated into the amended claim 9 by substantially combining originally filed claims 9 and 10.
3. Claim 11 is too obvious and therefore canceled in this amendment.